

Remarks

Applicants have amended the title to reflect the presently claimed invention, and have also updated the status of a granted application in the Cross Reference to Related Applications section. Further, Applicants have canceled claims 1 to 30 without prejudice or disclaimer, and added new claims 31 to 37 in order to claim embodiments of the subject matter of the elected group. New claims 31 to 37 find support throughout the specification as originally filed, and thus no new matter has been added. Applicants note that claims relating to antibodies to MCP-4 have been issued in U.S. Patent No. 6,673,344, to which the instant application claims benefit under 35 U.S.C. § 120.

Claims 31 to 37 are pending.

The Restriction Requirement

Pursuant to the Office Action mailed August 2, 2005, the Examiner has required an election under 35 U.S.C. § 121 of one of Groups 1 to 14. The Examiner contends that the inventions of the Groups are distinct, each from the other.

In response, and pursuant to M.P.E.P. § 818.02(a), Applicants elect the subject matter of Group 6, directed to, inter alia, antibodies to MCP-4 polypeptides, represented by original claim 22 (now canceled), and new claims 31 to 37. Applicants point out that claims 1-30 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, and that new claims 31 to 37 are directed to subject matter falling within the ambit of Group 6 as cast by the Examiner.

Should the Examiner restrict new claims 31 to 37 further, Applicants retain the right to traverse that restriction under 37 C.F.R. § 1.144.

Conclusion

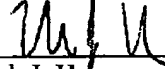
Entry of the above amendment is respectfully solicited. The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at the phone number provided below if any further action by Applicants would expedite the examination of this application.

If there are any fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, please charge the fees to our Deposit Account No. 08-3425. If a fee is required for an additional extension of time

under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136, such an extension is requested and the appropriate fee should also be charged to our Deposit Account.

Dated: November 2, 2005

Respectfully submitted,

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